

Welcome to the latest Abundant Water update. I hope this message finds you and yours healthy and well.

## Highlights

### Canberra Southern Cross Club Fundraiser



On the evening of Friday the 25th of March, Canberra Southern Cross Club hosted the AW trivia night. It was a great night with over 200 attendees. Special thanks go to Rafe Morris, Alice Cottee, and Kulture Break for their outstanding performances. Thanks again to the army of AW volunteers who willingly gave up their evenings and weekends to pull this all together.

### Filter Ready For Use



The filter has changed shape and size. The latest iteration now meets pathogen removal, water flow rate, ease of use, and durability requirements. The first order for 30 filters has been placed by our in-field development partner, Community Development and Environment Association, for use as a pilot in a Xieng Kuang village.

### **Field Work Begins**



Our field officer, Mr Chantana, has begun regular visits to rural villages where water supplies can look like the above swamp for part of the year. So far he has visited 5 villages that have expressed interest in working with the filter. From these villages we have identified two with a suitable and local source of clay and one village that would like to run trials with the filter right away. Initial clay trials from the remaining two villages were inconclusive and we will be running further tests to determine if there is a suitable source of clay at either village.

## Landscaping at the Filter Training Centre Underway



It doesn't look like much yet but with the upcoming rains these fast growing shrubs and trees will transform the training centre. We have been building an access path and landscaping with tropical fruit trees (banana, mango, paw paw, and lychee) to create a desirable space for the tourist venture we are developing. Once the centre is ready we are planning to bring tour groups through to learn pottery with Noukham and give them an opportunity to make a donation to one of our village filter projects.

**Update**

The Lao work team is now working quite well together. They are beginning to work more independently which is a good indication that they will be able to function autonomously by the time Sunny returns to Australia later this year.

CDEA have just taken delivery of our first information video. It is just a short five minute video that shows rural villagers the what and how of the filter. It is intended to be the first piece of information that villagers receive on the filter and will be used as a conversation starter.

**Did You Know**

The wet season in Laos runs, roughly, from May until November. That is good for us as it will greatly ease our task of digging the soil and planting fruit trees at the compound. Although, after a month of solid rain, it will make the task of visiting remote villages very challenging indeed. This is because the soil, from which the village roads are carved, once thoroughly wet has a slipperiness somewhere between that of ice and banana peel. I think you get the picture!

Thanks for your time and support,  
AW team